



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GO SERV “SPOTLIGHT”
SHINES ON TEENS DEDICATED TO SERVICE**

Trinity County Teens Show A Community the Benefit of Volunteering

SACRAMENTO – This week the GO SERV *Spotlight* focuses on Positive Action With Students (PAWS). Created two years ago by a group of young students, PAWS aims to empower youth to make a difference in their own community.

“These extraordinary young people recognized a community need and have dedicated themselves to meeting that need,” Executive Director of GO SERV, Chuck Supple said. “They are the type of volunteers who inspire all of us.”

Prior to PAWS, Trinity County did not have a recycling program and was forced to ship garbage to neighboring Anderson’s landfill. But with the help of a GO SERV grant, PAWS stepped in and established a curbside recycling program for Trinity County. Using teen volunteers and volunteer drivers, along with AmeriCorps and Volunteers in Service Through America (VISTA) members, along with other community volunteers, PAWS collects recyclable items each Tuesday, sorts them, then delivers them to a local recycling center.

Initially 20 youth ranging from ages 13-15, responded to the call for community volunteers and completed 40 hours of training. Since opening, PAWS has recycled over 20,000 pounds of trash. They have also maintained 90% of their original membership.

The success of the Trinity County PAWS program was so successful that five other PAWS clubs throughout Trinity County and Shasta County have been created. These clubs have sponsored drug and alcohol free events for youth and have provided more than 5,000 hours of service to local governments and other community based organizations. PAWS also sponsors community dances for area youth and is currently in the process of securing a teen center.

Though PAWS has adults serving in an advisory capacity, this is program driven primarily by youth and the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism is pleased to feature PAWS as this week's *Spotlight*.

The GO SERV *Spotlight* is a weekly recognition program, honoring community service organizations or individuals involved in community service. To view the full *Spotlight* story, please visit the GO SERV website at www.goserv.ca.gov.

Spotlight nomination forms, as well as other volunteer opportunities, are also available on GO SERV's Web site.

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